

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NAIROB 11200 282347Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

TRSE-00 /060 W

-----008354 291747Z /45

R 281324Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9237

USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS NAIROBI 11200

DEPT FOR AF, HU

AGENCY FOR AF

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, KE

SUBJ: PANEL DISCUSSION HELD ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SUMMARY: FIRST SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAM EVENT HELD AT NEW ICA CULTURAL CENTER JULY 27 COVERED TOPIC OF "HUMAN RIGHTS - AN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE." FORMAT CONSISTED OF PANEL DISCUSSION LED BY AMBASSADOR LE MELLE AND FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI NORMAN HODGES. AFTER BRIEF EXPOSITORY REMARKS BY BOTH PANELISTS, ONE HOUR OF PROVOCATIVE QUESTIONING FROM FLOOR FOLLOWED. HIGH-LEVEL AUDIENCE OF 40 KENYANS ATTENDED SESSION. END SUMMARY.

1. PANELISTS GIVE HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL BACKGROUND OF AMERICAN RECORD ON AND CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. WHILE THEIR STATEMENTS POINTED OUT AMERICA'S OWN TRANSGRESSIONS IN THE PAST - TREATMENT OF MINORITIES, MCCARTHY ERA, RECENT GOVERNMENT ABUSES OF POWER - THEY ALSO SAID THAT AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM AS A WHOLE PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AND RIGHTS. PANELISTS FURTHER STATED THEIR BELIEF THAT PRESENT ADMINISTRATION'S EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS NOT TRANSITORY BUT WOULD GENERATE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NAIROB 11200 282347Z

ENOUGH MOMENTUM TO BECOME INSTITUTIONALIZED PART OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY.

2. QUESTIONS FROM AUDIENCE WERE SHARP AND SOMETIMES CRITICAL OF U.S., WITH EMPHASIS ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND PAST AND PRESENT AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS AFRICA. AUDIENCE WAS CONCERNED WITH SEEMING HYPOCRISY OF U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

GIVEN ITS PAST RECORD IN THE FIELD, ESPECIALLY TOWARDS MINORITIES. PANELISTS RESPONDED THAT SUCH ABUSES IN THE PAST DID NOT PRECLUDE U.S. FROM EVER SPEAKING OUT ON VIOLATIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. OTHER QUESTIONERS ATTACKED WHAT THEY SAW AS U.S. SELECTIVENESS IN DENOUNCIATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS (CONTRASTING OUTCRY ON SOVIET DISSIDENTS WITH SILENCE ON TREATMENT OF BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN DETAINEES) AND ALLEGED U.S. SUPPORT FOR COLONIALIST AND NEO-COLONIALIST POWERS IN AFRICA, AS OPPOSED TO MOVEMENTS FIGHTING FOR NATIONAL FREEDOM. PANELISTS EFFECTIVELY ANSWERED SUCH REMARKS BY POINTING OUT THAT IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY, FOREIGN POLICY IS OFTEN INFLUENCED BY DOMESTIC CONTEXT, SUCH AS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, ETHNIC TIES, ETC.

3. DISCUSSION ATTRACTED HIGH-LEVEL KENYANS, INCLUDING JOURNALISTS, FACULTY MEMBERS FROM UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, AND LAWYERS. WHILE AUDIENCE WAS CRITICAL, IT WAS NOT HOSTILE. WE BELIEVE EVENT CONTRIBUTED TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THIS ASPECT OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AMONG SOME INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF KENYAN SOCIETY. LEMELLE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, CULTURAL CENTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NAIROB11200
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780312-0189
Format: TEL
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978079/aaaaahsl.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2a5f827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2100941
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PANEL DISCUSSION HELD ON HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY: FIRST SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAM EVENT HELD AT NEW ICA CULTURAL CENTER JULY 27 COVERED TOPIC OF "HUMAN RI
TAGS: SHUM, KE
To: STATE ICA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2a5f827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014